

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 and 26-32 are pending in the present application. Claims 22-25 were previously cancelled.

Claims 1-21 and 26-31 remain as previously presented, and dependent claim 32 is added to combine the subject matter of claims 7, 8, and 9. Claims 1 and 27 are independent.

The Examiner has required an election in the present application between:

Group I, claims 1-15, drawn to a die apparatus;

Group II, claims 16-21 and 26, drawn to a method of manufacturing; and

Group III, claim 27-31, drawn to a steering rack.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I claims 1-15 and 32.

Traversal

The Applicants respectfully submit that a serious burden has not been placed on the Examiner to consider all of the claims in a single application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his restriction and act on all of the claims in the present application.

The Examiner will note that claims 16-21 and 26 (Group II) depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 (Group I). Accordingly, when independent claim 1 is found to be allowable, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner rejoin and consider each of claims 16-21 and 26 in Group II as well.

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Reply filed on October 27, 2008
Reply to Office Action dated October 2, 2008*

*Attorney Docket No. 4601-0113PUS1
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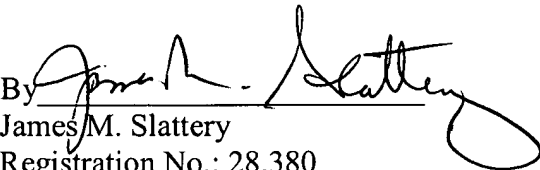
If the Examiner persists in her restriction requirement, the Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to claims 1-6 at a later date if they so desire.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned Carl T. Thomsen, Registration No. 50,786, at 703-208-4030 (direct line), to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: October 27, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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